



Operation Wallacea – Knepp Estate, UK

Wildlife Monitoring, Rewilding & Data Analysis

Costs £575 including full board in a campsite in the Knepp estate and tuition costs

This week long course based at the UK premier site for rewilding is a mix of wildlife monitoring for half a day each day, data analysis using R for the other half of the time and advice on career options in field biology and climate change from evening speakers. There are 3 main parts to this course

Field practicals

- rewilding ecology – practicalities and successes of rewilding areas
- botanical surveys of plant communities from quadrat data and entry of data into MAVIS software to identify Ellenberg scores, National Vegetation Classification and other vegetation community systems
- quantifying butterfly and pollinator (bee and hoverfly) usage of an area - how to sample and basic identification skills
- bird point count and mist netting surveys
- mammal reptile and amphibian survey techniques which will include camera trapping, DISTANCE sampling, standard search transects for herpetofauna, cover boards, small mammal trapping and sound analysis for bats.

Data analysis

The data analysis parts of the course train you in skills in how to analyse large data sets using R – the data analysis open source software used at most universities. You choose one of the data sets (large mammals in South Africa, birds in a Honduras cloud forest, coral reef structure, spider monkey behaviour in Mexico or reef fish abundance data from the Caribbean) and are then shown how to graph and statistically analyse these data sets. By the end of the week you will have prepared a short report written in scientific format or a presentation to answer a research question. The objective is to introduce you to R so you can learn how this software can be used for many data analysis tasks at university which will give you a head start over other students on your undergraduate course.

Wildlife or climate change career opportunities

Talks in the evening from biology, geography or environmental science graduates who are working in a wide range of field biology, climate change or wildlife filming careers